

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 L-01 DLOS-03 SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00

INR-05 CIAE-00 COA-01 PM-03 EB-03 IO-03 DODE-00 RSC-01

/048 W

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R 041205Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2485

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 1342

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR VS ID

SUBJECT: GOI/GVN CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY DISPUTE

REF: JAKARTA 1329

SUMMARY: A 5-MAN GVN TECHNICAL DELEGATION IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN JAKARTA ON OR ABOUT FEBRUARY 12 TO DISCUSS WITH GOI OFFICIALS OVERLAPPING CLAIMS TO SOUTH CHINA SEA CONTINENTAL SHELF. IF GOI DOES NOT BRING UP ARCHIPELAGO PRINCIPLE, GVN DELEGATION WILL REFRAIN FROM RAISING EQUITY QUESTION. GVN DELEGATION CHIEF FEELS DISPUTED AREA CAN BE EQUITABLY DIVIDED WITHOUT OVERT REFERENCE TO THESE PRINCIPLES. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON TRAN VAN KHOI, GENERAL MANAGER OF GVN'S PETROLEUM AND MINERALS AGENCY (PMA) TO DISCUSS SUBJECT. KHOI MENTIONED THAT HE WILL HEAD GVN TECHNICAL DELEGATION, WHICH WILL INCLUDE NANG OF VIETNAMESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN JAKARTA, COMMANDER BUI DUC TRONG, AND NGUYEN VAN VINH, ASSISTANT MANAGER OF PMA'S PETROLEUM DEPT. BOTH KHOI AND CDR. TRONG PARTICIPATED IN CARACAS LOS CONFERENCE. DELEGATION SCHEDULED TO DEPART
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SAIGON ABOUT FEBRUARY 12 AFTER LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS. GOI

HAS OFFERED TO PAY SAIGON-JAKARTA ROUND TRIP AIR FARE. ALTHOUGH KHOI CONSIDERS THIS GOI ONE-UPMANSHIP, GVN HAS DECIDED TO ACCEPT OFFER.

2. SINCE TRISULO SEEMS TO HAVE WRONG IMPRESSION OF KHOI, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ABOUT THE LATTER MAY BE USEFUL. KHOI IS AN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING GRADUATE OF UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA. HE IS WELL-KNOWN TO EMBASSY AND IS HIGHLY RESPECTED BY OIL COMPANY OFFICIALS FOR HIS STRAIGHT FORWARDNESS AND COMMON SENSE.

3. KHOI REALIZES IMPORTANCE GOI ATTACHES TO ARCHIPELAGO PRINCIPLE. IF GOI WILL NOT MENTION THIS PRINCIPLE, KHOI IN TURN PLANS TO REFRAIN FROM RAISING EQUITY PRINCIPLE IN SELF DEFENSE. HE IS HOPING GOI WILL BE MAGNANIMOUS AND IF DISPUTED AREA CAN SOMEHOW BE DIVIDED EQUITABLY DURING TALKS, KHOI FEELS CONFIDENT THAT HE CAN SELL AGREEMENT TO HIS GOVERNMENT.

4. DURING JAKARTA VISIT KHOI PLANS TO DISCUSS WITH PERTAMINA OFFICIALS THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH PRODUCTION SHARING. PMA HAS ALREADY STARTED NEGOTIATIONS WITH Pecten Vietnam (Shell US) ON PRODUCTION SHARING FORMULA AND WOULD LIKE TO BENEFIT FROM PERTAMINA'S EXPERTISE ON THIS MATTER.
LEHMANN

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